GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3635
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2001
EXORBITANT PRICE OF DRUGS
BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the exorbitant price of drugs keep AIDS patients from taking drugs;

(b) if so, the steps the Government contemplate or have already taken to meet the situation;

(c) whether the Government contemplate to make the drugs available at reduced rate in view of expected further rise in price of drugs with the restriction under the WTO treaty in 2005;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The antiretroviral drugs do not cure the patients from HIV infection.Also, these drugs cause serious adverse effects. The Government, however, has provided custom duty exemption on these drugs. Besides, the treatment of opportunistic infection is provided free of cost in all public sector hospitals.